

Teen-age Crime: "A Ticking Time Bomb"

Violent crime in the United States is a "ticking time bomb" that will explode in the next few years as the number of teen-agers soars.

The Council on Crime in America, an organization of prosecutors and law-enforcement experts headed by William Bennett, former director of national drug control policy under Reagan - drew on the work of James Alan Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University, to paint a bleak picture of youth crime trends. The report says that given demographic trends, there was concern that "we are in the lull before the crime storm."

Between now and the year 2005, the number of 14-to-17-year-old males will increase by 23 percent. This coming jump in the youthful population is worrisome, the report said, because criminologists have found that while adults are committing less violent crime, the rate of



violent crime among teen-agers has skyrocketed over the last decade.

As a result, the report recommended that governments attach much more importance to preventing youths who are at particular risk of becoming criminals from turning into juvenile delinquents.

The total cost of crime to victims in the United States is now about \$450 billion a year, the report said. Further, it said, real crime rates are actually as much as 5.7 times as high as those reported by the police, and each generation of teen-agers since the 1950s has been more violent than the last.

In addition, in one of its most controversial findings, the report concluded that the high cost of building and operating prisons actually saved taxpayers money when compared with the price of crime. For every dollar it costs to keep the typical prisoner behind bars, "society saves \$2.80 in the social costs of crime averted," the report said.

"Prison pays," the report concluded, and the United States can easily afford to build more prisons because "over all, Americans spend barely a penny of every tax dollar on prisons and jails."



Juveniles in Temporary Detention Have More Mental Problems than Their "Hard-Core" Counterparts

A Stanford University study has surprised researchers by showing that juveniles being held at juvenile hall appear to have more serious mental problems than hard-core juvenile offenders, reports Associated Press.

The study and others like it are being conducted to document what juvenile justice officials have suspected for years: As mental health care budgets are cut across the state and nation, juvenile detention facilities are doubling as dumping grounds for kids with emotional and behavioral problems.

The study by Dr. Hans Steiner, chief of child psychiatry at Stanford, showed that a majority of the juveniles being held at San Mateo County's Hillcrest detention facility reported suffering more severe post traumatic stress disorder, depression, learning disabilities and anxiety than did teens in the general population or offenders at California Youth Authority



Continued Page 5

"El Respeto Al Derecho Ajeno Es La Paz"
Lic Benito Juarez
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Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Aguero

The County Commissioners this week decided to appoint a citizen's task force to try and determine if the County Youth facility needs to be expanded

so more kids can be put in jail.

Commissioner Flores brought out a good point is asking that the task force also be told to examine why there are so much juvenile crime.

This week we are featuring several articles concerning study that have been done nationally concerning juvenile crime.

An analysis on page four point to the main factor is poverty. I would gather to say that that is the base of the problem here in Lubbock too.

Minorities in Lubbock make up the majority of juveniles in Lubbock and minorities in Lubbock also make up the majority of persons living on poverty and unemployed. And no doubt minorities make up the majority of dropouts from school.

Local statistics show that over 50 percent of the juveniles are Chicanos, over 50% of the juveniles at the County correction facility are Chicanos.

But is a task force to study the situation the real answer?

Is a day and night curfew the answer?

I think not. The real answer lies in getting up and doing something about the problem. Keeping kids out of trouble is not an easy task but not impossible if someone just start to care.

Pico de Gallo

An article appear recently about an organization in Plainview helping minority businesspersons in getting information in order for them to better or get into business.

Not too long ago Lubbock's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, then called COMA used to do that too.

Minorities Question NFL Deals

PHOENIX - Some minority business owners question whether they are getting a fair share of the millions of dollars the Super Bowl is expected to generate.

"I know we are getting a bad deal," said M.A. Bjorn, executive chef of Black Onyx Catering in Glendale. "How can you bring in (millions) in the state and act like you can give us \$100 and we will be satisfied?"

The NFL is spending about \$20 million for the Jan. 28 game, but officials did not know how much of that amount was going to minority contractors, said Jim Steeg, executive director for special events at the NFL.

Overall, the game is expected to have a \$187 million impact on the state. The breakdown is 70 percent for hotels, food and entertainment, and 15 percent each on transportation and merchandise.

Martin Samaniego, vice president for business development for the Super Bowl Host Committee, said minority businesses received about 10 percent of about \$450,000 worth of contracts through November 1995. About half those businesses were black-owned.

He said his office makes sure businesses are given equal opportunities to get contracts by listing them in a Super Bowl vendor reference guide.

"The Super Bowl only uses 10 to 15 major contractors depending on the activities," said Samaniego. "We sent this reference guide to all of the contractors and to the NFL office so we could get as much exposure for Arizona minority businesses and women

Martin Luther King Celebration

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration 1996 will be held January 11, 12, 14 and 15.

Activities will include church services at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church on January 11, Youth Night activities at New Hope Baptist Church on Friday, and a City Wide Celebration on Sunday evening January 14th at 6 pm at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center Theatre. The program will feature the MLK Mass Choir.

(owned) businesses."

About 20 percent of the 1,200 businesses listed in the guide are minority owned, and 20 to 25 percent are owned by women, Samaniego said.

No Super Bowl-related contracts have come to Andrea Zuhri-Adams, who owns a downtown Phoenix restaurant.

"I don't feel minority businesses get fair and impartial business. I have not received any business," she said.

Mike Parson, who owns Supreme Limousines Unlimited, has no Super Bowl business, but he said he is not concerned about it.

"I think the majority of the people coming will not make a decision until we know who is playing," he said. "I don't feel passed over."

And Priority Staffing in Tempe has gotten a contract to provide temporary workers for the Super Bowl Host Committee and other events.

"We provide quality service and that's why we have clients participating," said LaMonte Thomas, director of national development for the employment agency. "We didn't feel that it was because we were African-American."

Oscar Tillman, state president for the NAACP, said the Super Bowl should make more of an effort to include blacks - especially since the state lost the Super Bowl in 1993.

"If they go back five years, they should have the common sense to know that the African-American community is not going to sit back as they come into the city with multi-million dollars and not be a part of it," he said.

The 1993 game was moved from Phoenix because of Arizona's failure to observe the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. as a paid state holiday, which the state now has.

The NFL also stepped on some toes by canceling the color guard of the America Buffalo Soldiers Re-enactors Association in its pregame show.

The group's director, Chuck Long, said Super Bowl representatives told him last month his group was being replaced by troops who served in the Bosnia peacekeeping mission.

"I think it is a tragedy for the state," said Long. "It was a great opportunity for the Super

Bowl to pay tribute to a forgotten part of American history."

The Buffalo soldiers are made up of black soldiers who served in the armed forces.

Programa Para Ayudar a Negocios Minoritarios

La oficina de Delwin Jones trabajando con organizaciones de servicio social han fijado un seminario y taller para asistir a negocios minoritarios de Lubbock y la area.

Durante la presentacion estara presente Brenda Arnett directora del Departamento de Comercio para explicar diferentes programas para ayudar a negocios minoritarios.

El seminario se llevara a cabo el Viernes dia 19 de Enero empesando a las 7 de la tarde en el Villa Inn Annex Cuarto Hawaian localizado en el 5606 Villa Drive. Para mas informacion llame al Representante Delwin Jones en el 806-763-4468.

Program To Assist Minority Businesses

The office of Delwin Jones working with local service organizations has scheduled a seminar and workshop to assist Lubbock and area minority and small businesses.

Ms. Brenda Arnett, Executive Director of the Texas Department of Commerce and some of her staff members will be making presentations on the different programs available to help minority and small business owners. Materials, information and applications will be available for those interested. Staff members will be there to assist and to answer any questions.

The seminar and workshop is scheduled for: Friday, January 19, 1996 starting at 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Villa Inn Annex in the Hawaiian Room. The place for the event will be 5605 Villa Drive here in Lubbock. For more information please call the District Office of Delwin Jones at 806: 763-4468.

News Briefs

Disputed Fence Going Up on US-Mexico Border

In New Mexico, The U.S. Border Patrol yesterday began construction of a fence they say is needed to help authorities deter undocumented immigration and control crimes committed by Mexican gangs who regularly loot U.S. trains that pass just yards from the border, reports The Chicago Tribune.

But some locals don't see how they could be made to feel any more secure by a 1.3-mile-long steel fence.

"I don't think it's going to contribute anything, really," said Joe Mitotes, who lives just a half-mile from Mexico. "Nobody has ever bothered me. As far as the people that come across the border, they never bother."

The \$150,000 fence will be the first of its kind in New Mexico. Similar barriers have been constructed along the border in Arizona and California.

Once completed in about a month, the 10-foot-high fence will seal off a desert plain bordered by a steep mesa and Mount Cristo Rey, a craggy mountain with a large cross on its summit.

Border Patrol official Doug Mosier said the fence will funnel undocumented immigrants to rougher terrain outside town, where they will be easier to apprehend, while also making it harder for criminals to come and go as they do now. Sunland Park Police Chief Lalo Medina said he is grateful for the assistance the fence will provide, although he said border crossers account for only a small portion of the crime committed in the town of 10,000.

Immigration activists have opposed the idea of a fence since it was first broached in 1993, saying Mexicans would take it as an insult.

"It's contradictory to the climate of cooperation and friendship that has been developing between the United States and Mexico," said Manuel Hernandez, spokesman for the Mexican Consulate in El Paso.

CA AmeriCorps Will Work in Memory of MLK Jr

BusinessWire reports California AmeriCorps USA members, adult volunteers, local school children and youth will recognize the Martin Luther King Holiday statewide on Jan. 12-15, with community service projects and festivities in their local communities.

California's 2,300 AmeriCorps members will provide a day of service to their local communities. Residents will paint-out graffiti, re-create the 1963 March on Washington, feed the homeless, clean up neighborhoods and parks, and much more.

AmeriCorps USA is the country's domestic Peace Corps initiative that engages thousands of Americans in results-driven service to local communities. The AmeriCorps national service priorities are: education, public safety, health/human needs and the environment. AmeriCorps members receive an education award at the completion of their one- or two-year terms of service.

Clinton Vetoes Welfare GOP Plan

As promised, President Clinton on Tuesday vetoed a Republican plan to overhaul the nation's primary welfare programs and end the federal guarantee of aid to the poor, reports The Chicago Tribune.

Clinton complained in his veto message that the Republican bill "does too little to move people from welfare to work," but said he was willing to work with Congress on a new version "to enact real, bipartisan reform."

Clinton said he wanted a welfare reform plan that is motivated by the urgency of reform rather than by a "budget plan that is contrary to America's values."

"The current welfare system is broken and must be replaced, for the sake of the taxpayers who pay for it and the people who are trapped by it," he said in his veto message. But the legislation is "burdened with deep budget cuts and structural changes that fall short of real reform." Clinton called for Congress to address what he called shortcomings in the legislation, largely in the areas of work and child care.

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Latino Leaders Should Sound 'Quebec' Alarm

By Antonio M. Stevens-Arroyo

We Latinos should not be too quick to reject comparison with Quebec. Battles over English-only or bilingual education and the rights of immigrants threaten our cultural existence in the United States in ways that are even worse than the scenario in French Canada.

No boxer would go into a championship match vowing to punch with only one hand, and in the fight for our very survival, we should not renounce beforehand our ultimate defense.

The Million Man March in Washington last fall offers an example from the African-American experience. At a time when mainline civil rights organizations that work within the system seem impotent, a fringe leader like Louis Farrakhan shook the Euro-American establishment to its bones.

But why did this event enjoy success despite an orchestrated attempt to discredit it beforehand?

The answer, I think, is fear: Fear that African-Americans might achieve their agenda playing with new sets of rules that don't depend on Euro-American benevolence.

In a post-Cold War United States, the mainstream public has two major nightmares: Black rage and Latino separatism. The Million Man March stirred up the foreboding that African-Americans expect nothing from government and are organizing themselves with their own resources outside the Christian religion.

The vote in Quebec for sovereignty stirred fears in the United States that the Latino

population might one day seek the same. Indeed, the paper-thin margin that kept Quebec in Canada after Oct. 29 amounts to a virtual victory for French-speaking rights.

The English speakers are going to have to offer complete equality or lose Quebec the next time around. But instead of using this event to argue for more respect for U.S. Spanish speakers, many Latino leaders hastily denied any connection between the struggle of our people and that of the neighbors to the north.

I believe that Latino leaders in California, Texas and Florida speak for their people when they say there is no immediate threat of separation such as in Quebec. But all Latinos do not live in California, Texas and Florida, and those of us who are Puerto Ricans -- especially those who live on the island -- see many parallels between ourselves and Quebec.

Even with the ambiguities of Puerto Rican politics, all sense a shift under way against the status quo. For instance, in October of 1993 Puerto Ricans rejected statehood and voted for a change in the present Commonwealth status that would bring Puerto Rico its sovereignty -- just one step short of the complete separatism of independence.

The legislation required to recognize Puerto Rican self-determination is still bottled up in congressional committees controlled by Republicans. This kind of stonewalling in Washington has always worked in the past, as the majority of Puerto Ricans have waited hopelessly for a settlement of the status question. But Puerto Rico's centu-

ry-long passivity may be ending.

Right now, the budget plans of both the Republican and Democratic parties threaten the twin pillars of the Puerto Rican economy.

The Republican budget-cutters want to do away with social programs, even though the case for making Puerto Rico the 51st state depends on welfare from Washington. The Democrats want to eliminate "corporate welfare," probably killing current investments in the island economy.

Without the advantage of no income taxes under commonwealth, capital will flee the island. Since more and more Puerto Ricans -- especially young people -- are questioning the viability of either statehood or commonwealth, independence could be the big winner.

Constrictive economic policy encourages separatism, as Lise Bissonnette points out in Montreal's *Le Devoir*, in which she analyzes the rise of separatism in Quebec since its devastating loss in the 1980 plebiscite.

For much of the past 15 years, the Canadian government in Ottawa cut back on federal assistance to the poor, to cities, to education and to the social programs. If the federal government will not help any more, says Bissonnette, why bother having a federal government at all?

I submit that in defense of our current cultural rights, instead of avoiding it, Latinos would be well advised to refer to Puerto Rico as "another Quebec." We Latinos have a better chance to win the fight for our cultural rights if -- in

addition to arguments about pluralism and diversity -- we add the potential of Puerto Rican sovereignty.

The logic is simple: just as the U.S. colonies separated from England when the laws passed in far away London punished the colonists, so too Puerto Ricans have a right to separate when the laws from Washington work against the common good.

I am not saying this is going to happen -- just that if the United States does not respect Latino rights, it should be prepared to face the consequences. The "next American revolution" Newt Gingrich is talking about may be the one he is not expecting: Latinos taking back their government.

There are some political leaders who would declare war on the Spanish speaking, insisting that the tyranny of English-only be imposed and Draconian measures be taken against immigrants and their families so "we will not have another Quebec."

Latinos need to respond that we will not be made foreigners in our own land, pointing to the 1993 vote in Puerto Rico against statehood and in favor of sovereignty as the logical reaction of a people denied their rights.

Perhaps Latinos do not want to use the ultimately remedy of sovereignty as in Quebec; but it is up to the U.S. people of good will to see that we are not provoked.

(Dr. Antonio Stevens-Arroyo is a professor of Puerto Rican Studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and President of the Program for the Analysis of Religion -- PARAL.)

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Lideres Deben Sonar el "Alarma de Quebec"

Por Antonio M. Stevens-Arroyo

Nosotros, los latinos, no debemos ser demasiado rápidos para rechazar la comparación con Quebec. Las contiendas sobre el inglés solamente, la enseñanza bilingüe y los derechos de los inmigrantes amenazan a nuestra existencia cultural en los Estados Unidos de maneras que son aún peores que el escenario en el Canadá francés. Ningún boxeador iría a un encuentro de campeonato prometiendo pegar sólo con una mano, y en la lucha por nuestra supervivencia misma no deberíamos renunciar de antemano a nuestra defensa fundamental.

La Marcha de un Millón de Hombres sobre Washington, en el otoño de 1995, ofrece un ejemplo de la experiencia afroamericana. En una época en que las principales organizaciones de los derechos civiles que trabajan dentro del sistema parecen estar impotentes, un dirigente marginal como Louis Farrakhan sacudió al establecimiento euro-americano hasta los huesos.

Pero, ¿por qué tuvo éxito este acontecimiento a pesar de una tentativa organizada para desacreditarlo anticipadamente?

La respuesta, según creo, es el temor: El temor de que los afroamericanos pudieran lograr su programa de trabajo jugando con un nuevo conjunto de normas que no dependan de la benevolencia euro-americana.

En los Estados Unidos posteriores a la Guerra Fria, el público de la corriente principal tiene dos pesadillas principales: La indignación negra y el separatismo latino. La Marcha de un Millón de Hombres agitó el resentimiento de que los afroamericanos no esperan nada del gobierno y están organizándose a ellos mismos con sus propios recursos fuera de la religión cristiana.

La votación de Quebec por su soberanía produjo temores en los Estados Unidos de que la población latina pudiera

algún día procurar lo mismo. En verdad, el margen tan delgado como el papel que mantuvo a Quebec dentro del Canadá después del 29 de octubre de 1995 asciende a una victoria virtual para los derechos de los francófonos. Los anglófonos van a tener que ofrecer una igualdad completa o perder a Quebec la próxima vez.

Pero en vez de usar a este acontecimiento a fin de argumentar por más respeto para los hispano-parlantes de los Estados Unidos, muchos dirigentes latinos se apresuraron a negar cualquier conexión entre la lucha de nuestro pueblo y la de los vecinos del norte.

Yo creo que los dirigentes latinos de California, Texas y la Florida hablan por sus pueblos cuando dicen que no hay una amenaza inmediata de separatismo tal como la de Quebec. Pero todos los latinos no viven en California, Texas y la Florida, y aquellos de nosotros que somos puertorriqueños -- especialmente los que viven en la isla -- ven muchos paralelos entre nosotros y Quebec. Aún con las ambigüedades de la política puertorriqueña, todas las partes sienten que hay un cambio de marea en progreso contra la situación actual.

Por ejemplo, en octubre de 1993, los puertorriqueños rechazaron la estadidad y votaron por un cambio de la situación actual de Estado Libre Asociado, que llevaría la soberanía a Puerto Rico -- sólo un paso aparte del separatismo completo de la independencia. La legislación necesaria para reconocer la autodeterminación de Puerto Rico se halla todavía embotellada en los comités congresionales que controlan los republicanos. Esta clase de obstruccionismo en Washington ha funcionado siempre en el pasado, ya que la mayoría de los puertorriqueños han esperado sin esperanza por un arreglo del asunto de la situación. Pero la pasividad de Puerto Rico, que lleva ya un siglo, puede estar llegando a su fin.

Ahora mismo, los planes presupuestarios de ambos partidos, el republicano y el demócrata, amenazan a los pilares gemelos de la economía puertorriqueña. Los recortadores de presupuesto republicanos quieren eliminar los programas sociales, aún cuando el caso para hacer de Puerto Rico el quincuagésimo-primer estado depende de la asistencia económica pública procedente de Washington. Los demócratas quieren eliminar la "asistencia económica pública a las corporaciones", lo que probablemente mataría a las inversiones actuales dentro de la economía isleña. Sin las ventajas de no pagar impuestos sobre los ingresos bajo la situación de Estado Libre Asociado, el capital huirá de la isla. Ya que cada vez más puertorriqueños -- especialmente los jóvenes -- vienen poniendo en tela de juicio a la viabilidad, tanto de la estadidad como del Estado Libre Asociado, la independencia podría ser la gran ganadora.

Los cursos de acción económicos constrictivos alientan al separatismo, como Lise Bissonnette señala en *"Le Devoir"*, de Montreal, donde ella analiza el aumento del separatismo desde sus pérdidas devastadoras en el plebiscito de 1980. Durante gran parte de los 15 años recientes, el gobierno canadiense en Ottawa rebajó la ayuda federal a los pobres, a las ciudades, a la enseñanza y a otros programas sociales. Si el gobierno federal ya no ayudará más, dice Bissonnette, ¿por qué molestarse en tener un gobierno federal del todo?

Propongo que, en defensa de nuestros derechos culturales actuales, en vez de evitarlo, los latinos estarían bien orientados si se refirieran a Puerto Rico como "otro Quebec". Nosotros los latinos tenemos una oportunidad mejor de ganar la lucha por nuestros derechos culturales si -- además de los argumentos sobre el pluralismo y la diversidad -- añadieramos la posibilidad de la soberanía puertorriqueña.

La lógica es sencilla: De igual modo que las colonias estadounidenses se separaron de Inglaterra cuando las leyes aprobadas en la lejana Londres castigaron a los colonizadores, así también los puertorriqueños tienen el derecho a separarse cuando las leyes de Washington funcionan contra el bien común.

No estoy diciendo que esto vaya a suceder -- sólo que si los Estados Unidos no respetan a los derechos de los latinos, deberían estar preparados para enfrentarse a las consecuencias. La "próxima revolución estadounidense" de que Gingrich está hablando puede ser una que él no está esperando: Los latinos recuperando su gobierno.

Hay algunos dirigentes políticos que desearían declarar la guerra contra los hispano-parlantes, insistiendo en que se imponga la tiranía del inglés solamente y que se adopten medidas draconianas contra los inmigrantes y sus familias, para que "no tengamos otro Quebec".

Los latinos necesitan responder que no se nos convertirá en extranjeros en nuestra propia tierra, señalando a la votación de 1993 en Puerto Rico contra la estadidad y a favor de la soberanía como la reacción lógica de un pueblo al que se niegan sus derechos.

Quizás los latinos no quieren usar el remedio último de la soberanía como en Quebec; pero les toca a las personas de buena voluntad en los Estados Unidos el ver que no se nos provoque.

(El Dr. Antonio M. Stevens-Arroyo es catedrático de estudios puertorriqueños en la Escuela Superior de Brooklyn, Universidad Municipal de Nueva York, y presidente del Programa para el Análisis de la Religión (PARAL).)

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THE YEAR OF THE CHILD BECKONS US

By Victor Landa

One of the most tragic things about the adult condition is its distance from childhood.

I remember my childhood only in bits and pieces. There are scenes that play themselves out in my memory that are neither spectacular nor poignant. They are ordinary moments, stacked one on another, that make up the years gone by.

The little rag-tag band of neighborhood kids I belonged to wasn't much to look at, but we were, in our own way, a force to be reckoned with.

Rubén, Pancho, skinny Daniel from the other end of the street, and lumbering Kike, who was convinced that every mechanical problem suffered by every car ever made had its root in the spark plugs.

We played street soccer under the light of a lamp post, with bricks to mark the goals and a ball that was never more than half inflated because it took so much abuse.

I remember moments just sitting around, talking about nothing and everything, filling each other with information and lies about movies and wrestling matches and girls. We always meant what we said, and we did what we intended to do together.

Childhoods are filled with names, places and confidences -- and the certain, gradual loss of innocence. What I remember clearly is feeling amazed at the life around me and a curiosity about the way the world worked.

It dared me to poke and to probe the limits of all that I could see and touch. My curiosity helped me to learn, many times painfully, which is why I've come to believe that children should be treated with compassion.

What makes children so wonderful is the freedom with which they live, and the innocence with which they interpret the events of their lives. I've heard it said that the most precious beings are newborn babies because they are the closest to God. What a pity that we are so intent on growing up.

With the distance of time, children become our hope and our yearning for all that is good, for all that we have lost. We see in them everything that we need to make our existence better. Yet, our compassion for them is sometimes badly lacking.

Children of broken homes, children of poverty, children of the streets, children of war, children stranded in ignorance because of poor education, unhealthy children, undernourished children, children living in hopeless homes and neighborhoods, children abused and neglected -- these seeds of our future are mingled with everything that we hope for.

If we're honest enough to admit it, we'd see that we spend most of our time trying to find our way back, living a strange sort of contradiction. We are brave enough to confront life; yet afraid of what it might become. We fight for our freedom; yet we are trapped by our prejudices.

We want so much to grow up and be wise, and yet we seem consumed with recapturing our innocence. We send soldiers barely beyond childhood to keep the world at peace; we give them guns so that we will feel safe. We say that children and family are our priorities, except when they interfere with the bottom line.

Pope John Paul II has called for 1996 to be the year of the child. He speaks of finding our way back through the lives of those closest to creation, of valuing children as our road maps. And even though he didn't mention them by name, I'm pretty sure that what he had in mind were those ordinary moments that all of us have had with Rubén and Pancho and skinny Daniel from the end of the street.

(Victor Landa is news director of the Telemundo station KVDA-TV in San Antonio.)

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El Año Del Niño Nos Hace Señas

Por Victor Landa

Una de las cosas más trágicas acerca de ser adulto es la distancia que media desde la niñez.

Recuerdo mi niñez sólo en pedacitos. Hay escenas que vienen a mi memoria que no son ni espectaculares ni conmovedoras. Son momentos comunes, amontonados uno sobre el otro, que forman los años transcurridos.

La pandilla heterogénea de chicos de la vecindad a la que yo pertenecía no era gran cosa para mirar, pero éramos, de nuestro propio modo, una fuerza a tener en cuenta. Rubén, Pancho, el flaco Daniel del otro extremo de la calle, y el voluminoso Kike, que estaba convencido de que todos los problemas mecánicos que sufrían todos los autos que se hubieran fabricado tenían sus raíces en las bujías.

Jugábamos al soccer en la calle, la luz de un farol del alumbrado público, con ladrillos para señalar las metas y una pelota que nunca estuvo más que inflada a medias, debido a la gran cantidad de uso.

Recuerdo los momentos en que estábamos solamente sentados, hablando de nada y de todo, rellenándonos unos a otros con información y mentiras acerca de las películas, los encuentros de lucha libre y las muchachas. Siempre éramos honestos sobre lo que decíamos y hacíamos lo que nos proponíamos hacer juntos.

Las niñeces están llenas de nombres, lugares y confidencias -- y la pérdida cierta y gradual de la inocencia.

Lo que recuerdo claramente es haberme sentido asombrado por la vida alrededor mío y el modo de que el mundo funcionaba. Me retaba a investigar los límites de todo lo que yo podía ver y tocar. Mi curiosidad me ayudó a aprender, muchas veces dolorosamente, lo cual es la razón de que yo haya llegado a creer que los niños deberían ser tratados con compasión.

Lo que hace a los niños tan maravillosos es la libertad con que viven, y la inocencia con que interpretan los acontecimientos de sus vidas. He oído decir que lo más precioso son los niños recién nacidos, porque están más cerca de Dios. ¡Qué lástima que tengamos tantas ganas de crecer!

Con la distancia del tiempo, los niños se convierten en nuestro anhelo de todo lo que es bueno, de todo lo que hemos perdido. Vemos en ellos todo lo que necesitamos para hacer que nuestra existencia sea mejor. Sin embargo, nuestra compasión para ellos algunas veces falta en gran medida.

Los niños de los hogares rotos, los niños de la pobreza, de las calles, de la guerra, los niños atascados en la ignorancia debido a la enseñanza deficiente, los niños faltos de salud, los niños desnutridos, los niños que viven en hogares y vecindades sin esperanza, los niños maltratados y descuidados -- estas semillas de nuestro futuro están mezcladas con todo aquello que esperamos.

Si fuéramos lo suficientemente sinceros como para reconocerlo, veríamos que pasamos la mayor parte de nuestro tiempo en la página 3

El Editor's LATEST **Deportes - Sports** LO MAS RECIENTE

Cowboys, Packers Lost Players

IRVING, Texas - When the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys meet Sunday in the NFC title game, they'll be there despite the loss of some key players from last season.

For the Packers, the loss to injury of Sterling Sharpe and defection to Buffalo of Bryce Paup may be addition by subtraction.

Dallas' losses hurt a little more, particularly in depth.

Start with Sharpe, whose neck injury forced the Packers to release him. That's led indirectly to Brett Favre's MVP season at quarterback.

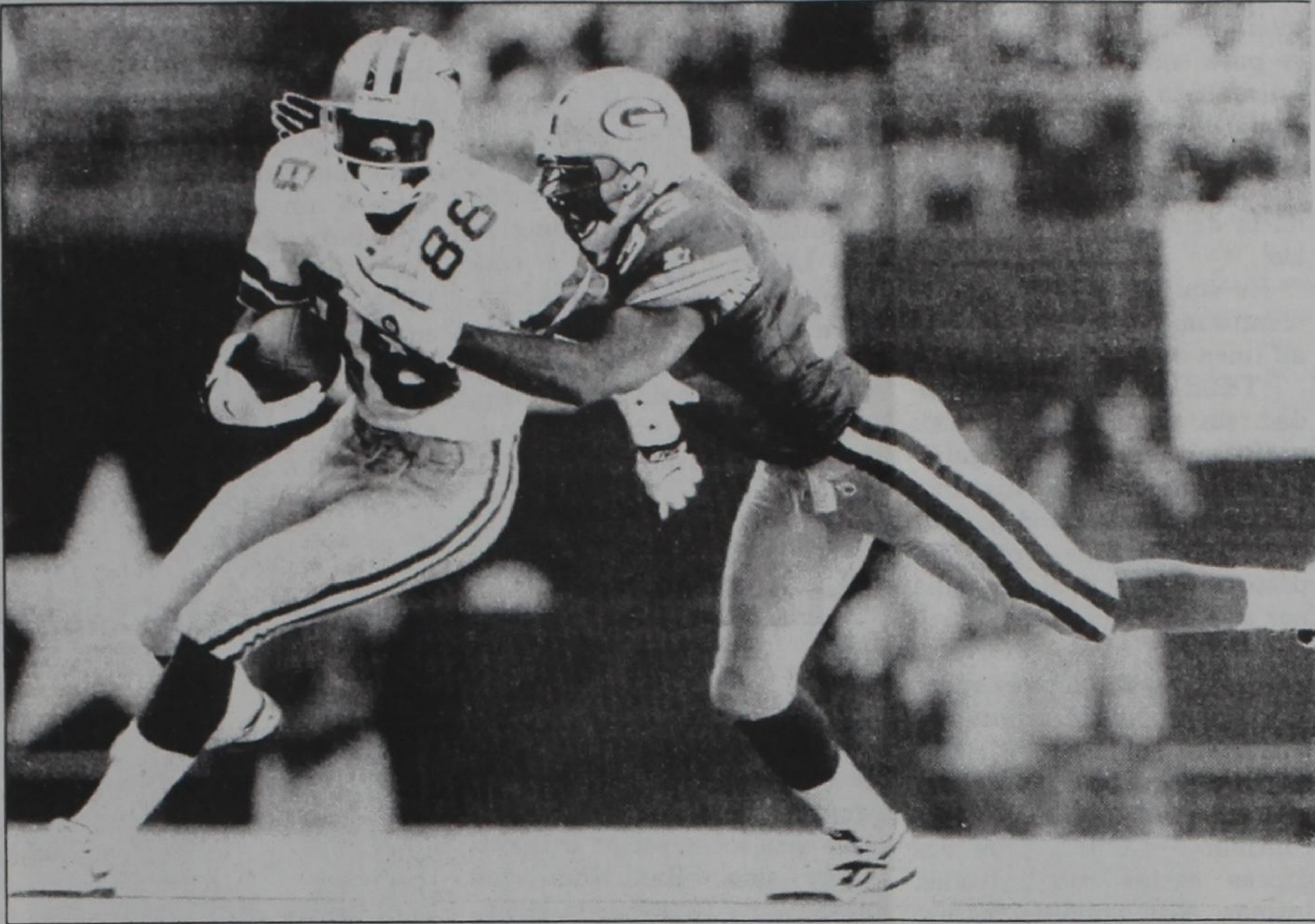
When Sharpe played, he was the focal point of the offense. He'd catch 10-to-12 passes a game and the next-leading receiver would grab two or three.

This year, Robert Brooks has replaced him and had 102 catches during the regular season. Mark Chmura blossomed into a Pro Bowl tight end; Edgar Bennett became the Packers' first 1,000-yard rusher since 1978, and Anthony Morgan and Mark Ingram made contributions at wide receiver.

In last week's upset over San Francisco, Favre had 21 completions to seven different receivers. Brooks and alternate tight end Keith Jackson led the way with four each.

"I would never say anything negative about Sterling because he's a friend of mine and was a great player," Favre says. "But without him, our offense has become more diversified. It's not automatically 'look for Sterling' and then scramble."

Paup went to Buffalo as a free agent, led the NFL with 17 1/2 sacks, and was voted Defen-



sive Player of the Year. But his replacement was Wayne Simmons, the Packers' top draft pick in 1993 and he's become a solid starter after sitting out most of his first two seasons with injuries.

"Bryce was a great pass rusher and we wanted to keep him, but it was a salary cap situation," coach Mike Holmgren says. "We were lucky to have Wayne behind him and he's stepped right in."

The Cowboys, on the other

hand, have lost much of the depth they had on their 1992 and 1993 Super Bowl teams, largely because they had so much talent they couldn't fit it in under the cap.

This season, they lost Pro Bowl center Mark Stepnoski to Houston, wide receiver Alvin Harper to Tampa Bay, safety James Washington to Washington and 34-year-old pass rushing specialist Jim Jeffcoat to Buffalo. Then Clayton Holmes, the nickel

back, was suspended for substance abuse.

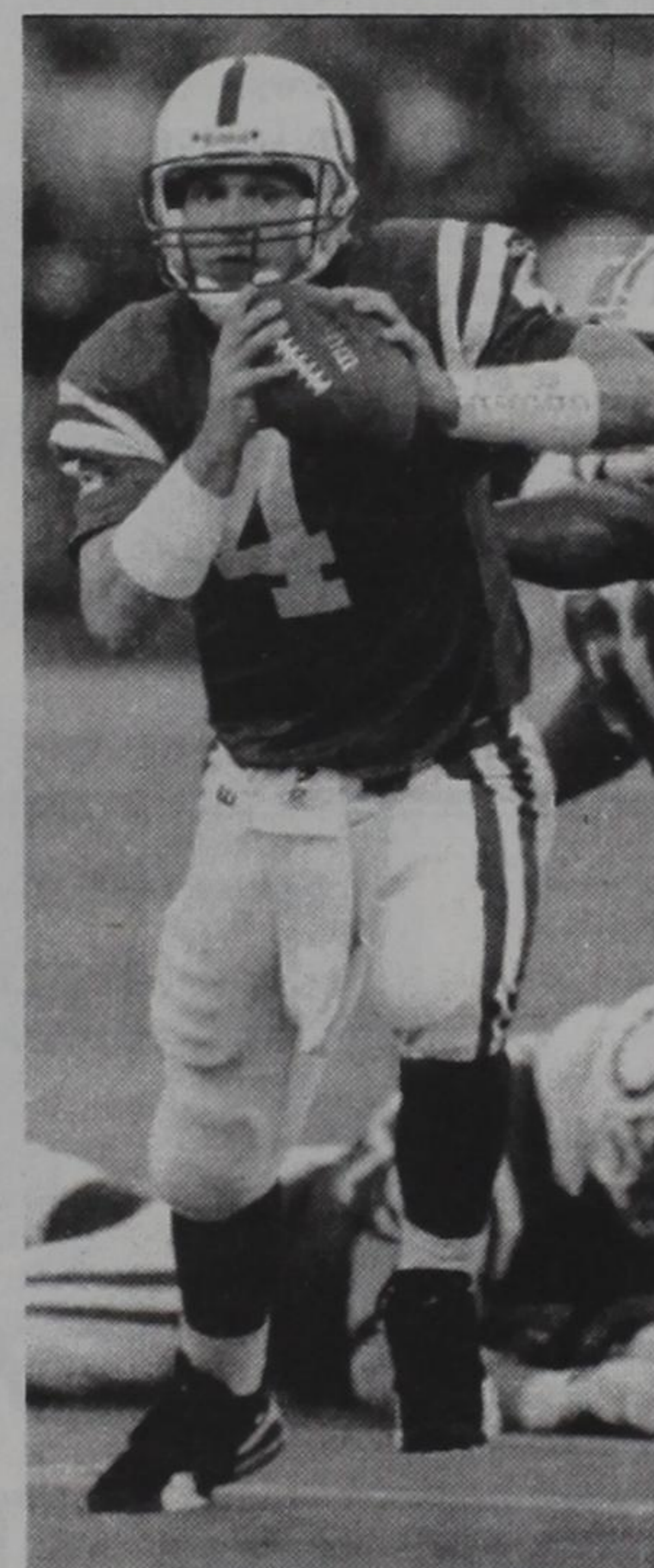
They signed 37-year-old Ray Donaldson to replace Stepnoski, but Donaldson broke his ankle and has been replaced by journeyman Derek Kennard. Kevin Williams replaced Harper and has 20 catches in his last three games after getting only 24 in the first 14, and Jeffcoat has left a gap in the outside pass rush, particularly after Charles Haley had back surgery.

but he has not been on the practice field and has not been involved in any of the controlled situations we have in practice," Cowher said. "But we'll see what he can do this week and, more importantly, how his knee responds."

The decision involves more than just this week, or this month. Woodson, 30, risks not only reinjuring the knee but also ending his career if he rushes. Even many of his friends on the team have tried to persuade him to wait until training camp.

"The No. 1 concern is Rod Woodson," Cowher said. "From there, everything else is secondary. We're not going to put him out there, and Rod isn't going to put himself out there unless he is ready to play."

Woodson began lobbying to play last week against Buffalo, but Cowher flatly rejected the idea. The coach also seemed to become annoyed at the constant questions about Woodson's status.



play again until training camp.

But Woodson is convinced a right knee that is only 80-85 percent healed is strong enough to let him play, even if only for a few downs Sunday against the Indianapolis Colts, or, if the Steelers qualify, in the Super Bowl.

So, perhaps in deference to Woodson's status as the Steelers' top player, Steelers coach Bill Cowher on Tuesday upgraded Woodson from out to doubtful on the weekly injury list.

Cowher will evaluate Woodson in practice, then make a decision.

What does Woodson have to show him?

"That he can play," Cowher said.

That won't be easy. Woodson's injury - a torn anterior cruciate ligament - is one of the worst an athlete can sustain. No NFL player has returned from so severe a knee injury to play again in the same season.

Further complicating Woodson's injury is a torn ligament that doctors said has healed even more slowly than the transplanted patella tendon that replaced his torn ACL.

"He's kind of picked up his pace since the playoffs started,

Chavez and DeLa Hoya Set Fight Date

LAS VEGAS - Julio Cesar Chavez and Oscar De La Hoya won't be coming to your living room soon.

In a throwback to fights of years past, promoters said Tuesday that the planned June 7 megafight between the two boxers will be televised closed circuit to arenas and theaters across the country instead of on pay-per-view television.

"We're going back to the future," promoter Bob Arum said. "Just like we did in the old days when boxing was at its most popular."

The much anticipated fight between De La Hoya, the 1992 Olympic gold medalist, and Chavez, one of boxing's greatest champions ever, will be held outdoors at the 16,000-seat arena at Caesars Palace.

Like the Ali-Frazier fights of the 1970s, it will be shown in arenas and theaters, some of which will stage their own live undercards to build local excitement, Arum said.

"Pay-per-view hasn't turned out to be the bonanza everybody thinks it is," Arum said. "If this works out like we think it will, I think you will see Mike Tyson fights on closed circuit in the future."

Arum said tickets would be priced around \$25 or \$30 for the fight, which he predicted could be the richest ever. Both De La Hoya and Chavez are guaranteed \$9 million, and could make much more under contracts that give them a percentage of the fight revenues.

Rival promoter Don King, who promotes Chavez, will be co-promoter of the fight.

First, though, both fighters must get by tuneup fights on the same card Feb. 9 inside the smaller indoor arena at



Caesars Palace.

Chavez (95-1-1) will meet Scott Walker (21-3-1) of Mesa, Ariz., in a non-title fight, while De La Hoya (20-0) will make his debut as a junior welterweight in a scheduled 12-round bout against Darryl Tyson (47-8-1).

"Train hard for Feb. 9," Arum implored both fighters during a conference call Thursday. "Let's not overlook the opponents for Feb. 9."

De La Hoya, who has been spectacular in his brief pro career, is moving up to 140 pounds to challenge Chavez, the aging but still very dangerous Mexican champion.

"Moving up to 140 will be a big advantage but it's the toughest fight of my career," De La Hoya said. "Julio Cesar Chavez is very strong, very intelligent. He has five times more experience than I do. I have to be very careful."

Chavez, who will be in his 99th pro fight, sparred with De La Hoya while De La Hoya was training for the 1992 Olympics and knows him well.

"He is a very fast fighter, a very well prepared fighter," Chavez said. "It's going to be a very good fight."

El Editor Newspaper
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NFC CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE

Edwards misses practice with flu

The Cowboys sent linebacker Dixon Edwards home before practice because he has the flu. Coach Barry Switzer said he expected Edwards to return to practice Thursday.

— Jean-Jacques Taylor

Haley practices without pads

Defensive end Charles Haley, who had back surgery five weeks ago, practiced without pads on.

He did some agility and conditioning drills and went through some one-on-one pass-rushing drills with tackle Mark Tuinei.

Coach Barry Switzer said he does not expect Haley to practice in pads until Friday.

"The way he looked in drills, it doesn't seem like he had back surgery five weeks ago," Switzer said. "He looked quick, but there's a difference between working out in shorts and taking on 300-pound linemen."

Switzer said Haley would work primarily in nickel and obvious passing situations Sunday.

— Jean-Jacques Taylor

Great prediction by Holmgren

The Green Bay Packers, what with their legacy of Vince Lombardi, Ray Nitschke, Paul Hornung and frozen tundra, have not lacked for mystique. This year, they aren't lacking for mysticism, either.

Quarterback Brett Favre's blossoming into the league's Most Valuable Player has been almost magical. Defensive end Reggie White's return to action on a torn left hamstring has been described as miraculous. And it turns out coach Mike Holmgren has been nothing short of a prophet.

"Our last loss in Dallas [a 34-24 finish on Oct. 8] was very bitter," Packers safety LeRoy Butler said Wednesday. "We said that was something that can never happen again, that we're sick of the same team beating us."

"But right after that game, in the locker room, Coach Holmgren told us, 'We'll get another chance at these guys. And it'll be for all the marbles.'"

"It was just what we needed to hear after that game. And now, here we are."

— Ken Daley

Packers rookie impresses Lett

Defensive tackle Leon Lett said he has been impressed with the play of Green Bay rookie Adam Timmerman.

Timmerman started against San Francisco last week because starter Aaron Taylor hurt his knee in their first playoff game against Atlanta.

"After watching him on film, I think he's better than Taylor," Lett said. "He stays with his blocks and he moves his feet really well. He's going to be tough."

— Jean-Jacques Taylor

Weather report

Sunday's forecast calls for highs in the low 70s at game time and no precipitation.

— Associated Press

Packers injury report

Defensive tackle Gilbert Brown (questionable, knee sprain) and defensive end White (probable, hamstring) were the only Packers listed on the team's official injury report.

Packers coach Mike Holmgren looked at the Dallas report that listed receiver Oronde Gadsden as out, defensive end Charles Haley as questionable and 18 other Cowboys as only probable and asked, "Do they have anybody who's healthy to play Sunday?"

— Ken Daley

Briefly . . .

Defensive end Gilbert Brown, Green Bay's best run defender in the middle of the line, participated in Wednesday's light walk-through practice. "I'm planning on him playing," Packers coach Mike Holmgren said. "Just how much, I'm not sure right now." . . . One reason for the five consecutive Cowboys victories over the Packers in Dallas is the loud Texas Stadium crowd, Holmgren said. "Their crowd gets cranked up for every game, and for us especially," he said. "Noise has been a factor, and I'm sure it will be again this Sunday."

— Ken Daley

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News Briefs

Gingrich: Budget Impasse May Last Until November

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Wednesday there may be a stalemate that will not be resolved until the November election, reports Associated Press.

"I think the odds are better than even as of today that there will be no agreement. And I find that a very difficult prospect," Gingrich said in Casper, Wyo., where he attended a Republican fund-raiser. "I am, for the first time in a year, pessimistic about the likelihood of our getting agreement," he said.

"It may just be that we need one more election," he said. "It may literally be that the Clinton administration cannot agree to the kind of decentralization and lower spending and lower taxes that we represent."

Republican congressional leaders say they may try to bypass the White House and pass veto-proof spending legislation with the help of conservative Democrats. But White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, interviewed on NBC's "Today," said, "We feel pretty confident about our ability to hold conservative Democrats."

Gingrich said any attempt to push a new budget proposal through Congress would not come until after Clinton delivers his State of the Union address, scheduled for Jan. 23.

Lack of a quick breakthrough increases the danger the parties will give up any hope of an agreement and let the voters decide next November, effectively paralyzing many federal programs in the coming year.

Clinton, telling reporters a "final agreement is clearly within reach," maintained that the two sides were making progress in finding a formula for balancing the budget by 2002. He said talks would resume in a week, giving their staffs time to search for areas of compromise.

New Orleans: Many Blacks Question NAACP's Role

The New York Times reports many blacks interviewed in New Orleans have questions about the N.A.A.C.P.'s purpose in today's world and its relation to their daily lives.

Many interviewed have not closely followed the internal struggles that have wracked the organization since disclosures in 1994 that then-leader Ben Chavis had committed the organization's money to forstall a sexual-harassment and sex-discrimination suit by a former employee.

In part, the lack of knowledge of the organization reflects a natural inattention of people busy with their everyday lives. Or the sense of alienation resulting from the group's recent travails.

But for some, particularly the young and the poor for whom the organization often claims to speak, the lack of familiarity with the N.A.A.C.P. was jarring.

"I've never heard of them," said Lucinda Carter, a 20-year-old mother on welfare.

Even among some familiar with the organization, there seemed to be questions about the need to be a part of it. "I've always been able to deal with my life. I think I can provide for myself. I may want to join later on in my life, but not right now," said a college freshman.

In interviews, person after person expressed an unease that, without the stark and tangible racism embodied in legalized segregation, the black community was fracturing. To them, a national organization like the N.A.A.C.P. is needed to unify blacks, but unifying them around what remained an open question.

"The N.A.A.C.P.'s purpose has to change at this point," said Matt Suarez, who worked in Mississippi in the 1960s as a volunteer for the Congress of Racial Equality. "We as a people are becoming fragmented. People like to say it's the haves and the have nots, but...we're separating and splitting among ourselves in terms of politics, philosophies, economics, regions, all sorts of influences that didn't have as much importance in our lives during the civil rights movement."

Mr. Suarez added: "More and more the pressures of American life, American society, American politics are dividing us. The N.A.A.C.P.'s role has to be to find those avenues that will reunite us as a people."

Prison Chief: 1/3 of Inmates 'Ain't Fit to Kill'

Declaring that a third of the state's prisoners "ain't fit to kill," Georgia's new prison chief said that all inmates will perform daily chores even if it means digging unneeded ditches, reports The Chicago Tribune.

"We have 60 to 65 percent of our inmate population that truly want to do better...but there's another 30 to 35 percent that ain't fit to kill and I'm going to be there to accommodate them," Commissioner Wayne Garner told lawmakers Tuesday in his first public address since taking office two weeks ago. "My goal is for the prison experience not to be a pleasant one."

Former commissioner Allen Ault resigned Nov. 15, lamenting a national political climate that favors a return to chain gangs and other punitive measures; Alabama, Florida and Arizona have reinstated chain gangs. Garner was the chairman of the state Board of Pardons and Paroles and was named to the prison chief post the same day Ault resigned.

In a memo to prison chiefs, Garner said no job is too insignificant, even if it meant "digging large holes or ditches, then filling them in, only to dig it up again." Garner also vowed to make the entrance test for becoming a \$17,000-a-year prison guard easier because too many applicants flunk.

Inmates will also be ordered to walk 4 miles a day in an hour to cut the department's \$80 million annual health-care bill for prisoners. Last year, Georgia Gov. Zell Miller ordered all weight-lifting equipment removed from prisons, saying it was an unnecessary privilege.

"Inmates do not need to lift weights. We're not looking for Mr. and Mrs. America," Miller said. "We're looking for people with strong hearts and great lungs who don't cost so much to keep up."

Los Hispanos Avanzan Penosamente

Por Antonio Mejías Rentas

Al medirlo día por día o semana por semana, el surgimiento hispano en las artes creativas en los Estados Unidos parece desconsoladoramente lento. Pero cuando uno se para sobre los hombros de un muñeco de nieve en enero y mira retrospectivamente al año 1995 en su conjunto, el movimiento -- algunas veces hacia delante -- se hace visible.

He aquí algunos de los momentos importantes de 1995 en mi línea de visión:

TELEVISION: Una cantidad sin precedentes de seis postulaciones para galardones Emmy para hispanos en julio último produjo sólo un galardón, otorgado póstumamente a Raúl Juliá por su actuación en "A Burning Season".

Ninguna de las tres redes televisoras introdujo un programa con un actor principal latino en el otoño, y la ABC -- el foco de un boicot nacional continuo -- eliminó sus dos únicas series con estrellas latinas. NBC trajo de regreso a dos programas, uno de los cuales (The John Larroquette show), ganó una segunda postulación del galardón Emmy para Liz Torres. El otro -- SeaQuest, con Marco Rodríguez -- fué cancelado más tarde en el año.

Tres programas con latinos notables fueron presentados por las cadenas más nuevas en el otoño: Uno cada una por FOX (Space: Above and Beyond, con Joel de la Fuente); UPN (Live Shot, con Wanda de Jesús y Eddie Vélez) y WB (First Time Out, destacando a Jackie Guerra como estrella) -- pero el primero ya ha sido cancelado y no se espera que los dos últimos regresen en el otoño próximo.

A pesar del -- o por razón del -- boicot hispano contra ABC, del alfabeto presentó "Latin Nights: An All Star Celebration" en julio último. En noviembre, ABC anunció un acuerdo de producción con Edward James Olmos.

Hollywood continuó su expansión al sur de la frontera, con varias redes estadounidenses surgiendo en el mercado de la televisión por cable en la América Latina.

MUSICA: A principios del año, la cantidad sin precedentes de 34 intérpretes o actos musicales latino fueron nominados para diemio Grammy, y un total de cinco recibieron galardones en marzo.

La participación latina en la industria de las grabaciones fué alimentada por un surgimiento de películas hispanas, con bandas de sonido notables para My Family, The Pérez Family, Desperado y hasta la música de Emilio Estefan para The Specialist, que fué dirigida por Luis Llosa.

La empresa de Estefan, Crescent Moon Records, publicó la banda sonora de la última y una continuación del ganador de Grammy: Master Sessions, volume one del septuagenario Israel "Cachao" López. Dos latinos más jóvenes, el productor de discos Jellybean Benítez y el cineasta Robert Rodríguez, también establecieron sus propias compañías de discos.

ARTE Y LITERATURA: Mientras que la exhibición de "Expresiones Chicanas" llegó a España en febrero, varios programas con artistas latino americanos y latinos estadounidenses continuaron recorriendo este país. Carmen Lomas Garza se convirtió en la primera mexicana-americana que haya exhibido en el Museo Hirschhorn de Washington, DC.

La literatura en idioma español continuó cautivando a los lectores de los Estados Unidos, con varias casas editoriales ibéricas estableciendo enlaces con sus colegas de aquí.

PELICULAS: En paralelo con el éxito de dos cineastas latinos de los Estados Unidos, Gregory Nava (My Family) y Robert Rodríguez (Desperado), dos directores

mexicanos dejaron sus marcas en Hollywood. Alfonso Arau marcó un hito con su cinta "A Walk in the Clouds", aunque el estreno de la película tuvo que ser demorado por varias razones, incluyendo una demanda judicial presentada por su ex-esposa y asociada, Laura Esquivel. Alfonso Cuarón tuvo un éxito de crítica -- pero no de taquilla -- con su producción "A Little Princess", y está transformándolo en una carrera prometedor en Hollywood. Uno de los cineastas más talentosos de Puerto Rico, Jacob Morales, viajó el circuito de los festivales internacionales con su "Linda Sara",

que rompió las marcas de taquilla en el Estado Libre Asociado. La ejecución de John Leguizamo como un travesti llamado Chi Chi Rodríguez en la película titulada "A Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar", enojó al verdadero Chi Chi Rodríguez. El golfista interpuso una demanda judicial y llegó a un arreglo por una cantidad no precisada.

TAMBIEN SOBRESALIENTES: El deso de vivir continuo de Anthony lo llevó al divorcio, pero también a un regreso al escenario y a la pantalla... Antonio Banderas se convirtió en el "Latin Lover" favorito de Hollywood,

con apariciones consecutivas en la pantalla, mucho trabajo aún por llegar a un romance bien publicitado con la actriz Melanie Griffith... Jimmy Smits salvó al programa NYPD Blue de ABC y terminó 1995 con una postulación para el premio Golden Globe de 1996... Gloria Estefan regresó a Cuba para presentarse ante los refugiados de Guantánamo y publicó un nuevo álbum en español, "Abriendo Puertas"... Rubén Blades regresó a Panamá, entregó las riendas de su partido político y empezó a trabajar en un álbum y, posiblemente, en una película... Adelante hacia 1996.

Hispanics Trudge Ahead Creative Art

By Antonio Mejías-Rentas

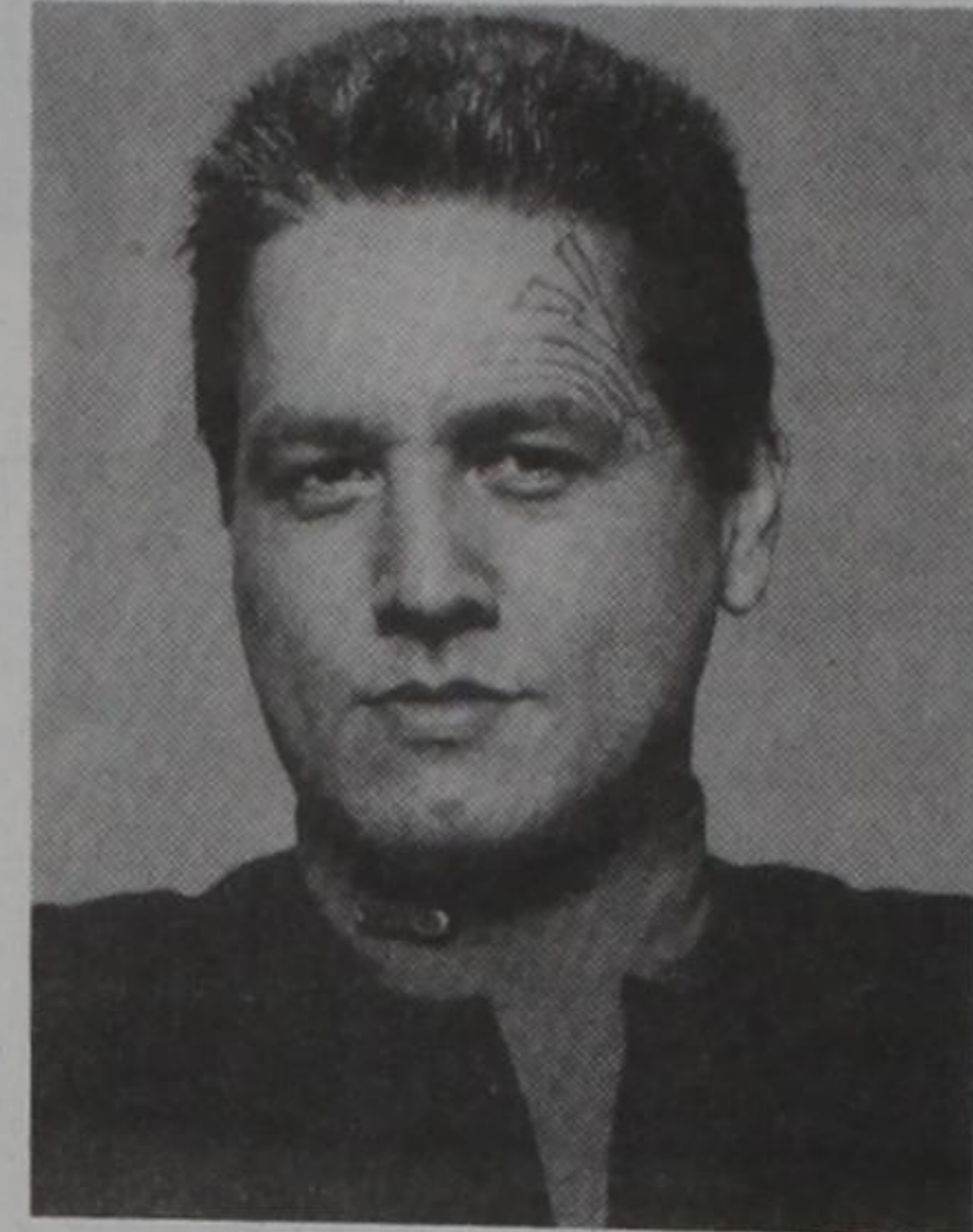
Measured day by day or week by week, the Hispanic emergence onto the U.S. creative arts scene seems frustratingly slow. But when you stand on a snowman's shoulders in January and look back at the year 1995 in its altogether, motion -- sometimes forward -- is visible.

Here are some of the significant '95 moments in my line of sight:

TELEVISION: An all-time high of six Emmy nominations for Hispanics last July yielded but one award, given posthumously to Raúl Juliá for "A Burning Season."

None of the three established networks premiered a show with a Latino lead actor in the fall, and ABC -- the focus of an ongoing national boycott -- dropped its only two series with Latino stars. NBC returned two shows, one of which ("The John Larroquette Show"), earned a second Emmy nomination for Liz Torres. The other -- seaQuest, with Marco Rodríguez -- was canceled later in the year.

Three shows with Latino leads were introduced by the newer networks in the fall -- one each by FOX ("Space: Above and Beyond," with Joel de la Fuente), UPN ("Live Shot" with Wanda de Jesús



and Eddie Vélez) and WB ("First Time Out," starring Jackie Guerra) -- but the first one is already canceled, and the last two are not expected to return next fall.

In spite -- or because -- of the Hispanic boycott of ABC, the alphabet network aired "Latin Nights: An All-Star Celebration" in July. In November, ABC announced a production agreement with Edward James Olmos.

Hollywood continued its expansion south of the border, with several U.S.-run networks popping up in the Latin American cable market.

MUSIC: Early in the year, a record 34 Latino performers or musical acts were handed Grammy nominations, and a

total of five received awards in March.

Latino participation in the recording industry was fed by a surge in Hispanic films, with outstanding soundtracks for "My Family," "The Pérez Family," "Desperado," and even Emilio Estefan's music for "The Specialist," which

Continued Page 6



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Teenagers "Ticking Timebomb"

(CYA), the state's prison system for teens and young adults. "The rate of traumatization for those was even higher than the ones in the CYA, and we didn't quite expect that," Steiner said. He said the incarceration of emotionally troubled children is happening at juvenile facilities across the country, since spending on mental health programs has dropped steadily for at least the last decade.

The study, which began in the summer of 1994, will include a follow-up in April, when a child psychiatrist will interview Hillcrest juveniles one-on-one to diagnose their symptoms. Funded by the California Wellness Foundation, the study was requested by San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Phrasel Shelton, who hears many juvenile court cases.

Vincent Schiraldi, executive director for the Center on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, blamed legislators and the governor for a hard-line approach on juvenile crime that has broadened the net of those being imprisoned at a cost of roughly \$40,000 to \$50,000 each per year. The priority, he said, should be increased spending on mental health care and other treatment.

In San Mateo County, the mental health care division has suffered cutbacks for at least the past 11 years in a row, and nearly all of the \$500,000 spent annually on mental health programs for children on probation comes from state and federal grants, said Randy Sclar, psychiatric unit supervisor at Hillcrest.

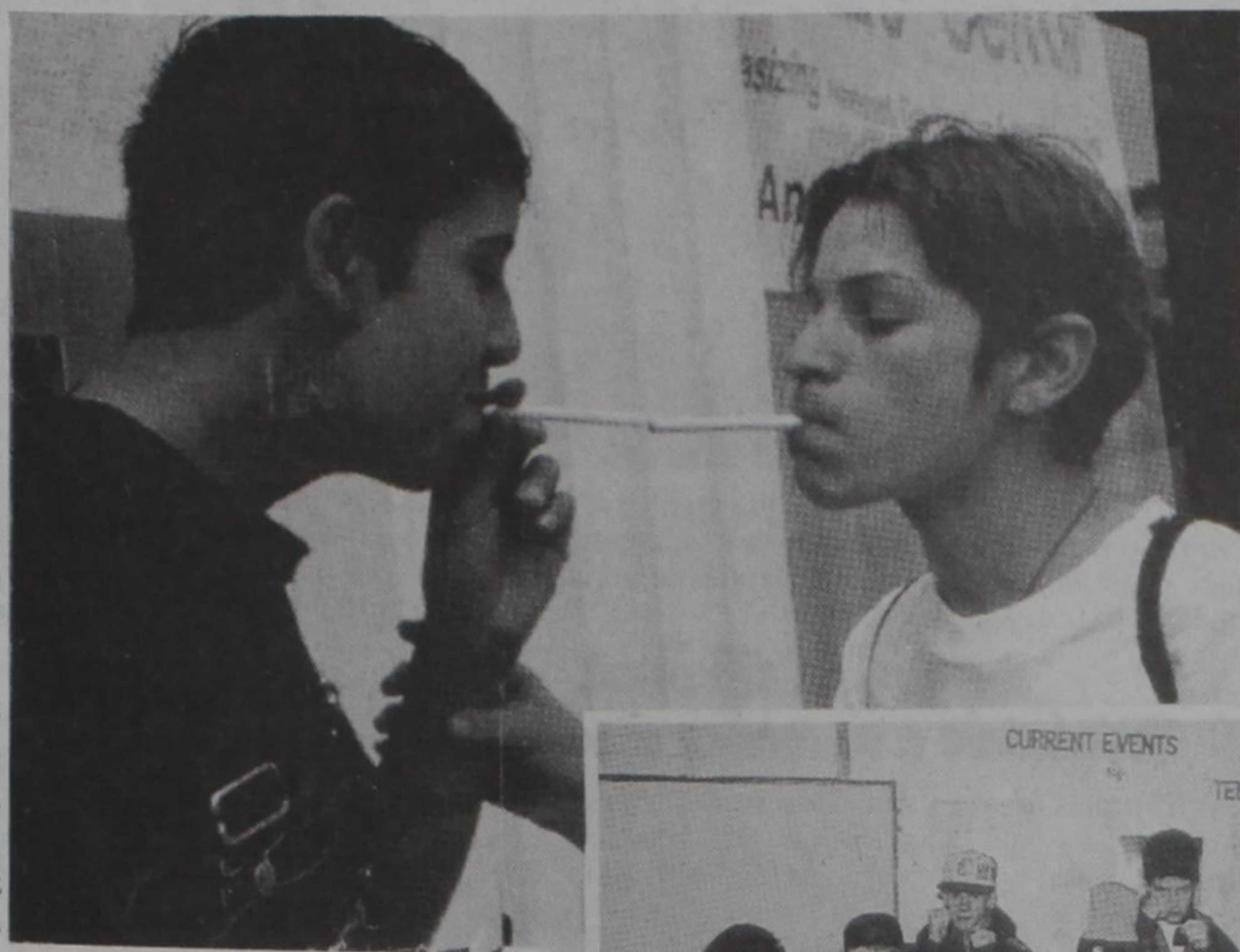
Sclar said although there are teens who belong in mental health institutions, they end up in the only social safety net left -- Hillcrest -- and workers have no choice but to try to treat them.

1992. Based on a survey of hundreds of juvenile court defense lawyers and defendants, the report was prepared by the ABA and two advocacy organizations, the Youth Law Center in Washington and the Juvenile Law Center [HN2403] in Philadelphia.

"The juvenile justice system is a sick patient," said Juvenile Law Center's Robert Schwartz. "The next few years will be telling."

The report finds that juvenile court defense lawyers work, on average, on more than 500 cases at any one time. "At several sites, children literally met their lawyers as they sat down at counsel table in the detention hearings," the report says.

And more than half the public defenders in juvenile courts re-



main in their jobs less than two years, meaning most are inexperienced.

The report cites "serious gaps in the training available to juvenile defenders." It says about half of all public defender offices lack any money to send even new lawyers to training programs; 78 percent lack continuing-education funds.

The report also says low salaries and low morale are common.

Among the report's recommendations:

- State and local governments should create programs aimed at improving the quality of legal representation.
- State legislatures should provide the funding for such programs.

- State and local bar associations should encourage more lawyers to provide their services free of charge to juvenile court defendants.
- Public defender offices should ensure that their lawyers have manageable caseloads and develop community-based services.
- Congress should hold hearings to document the quality and accessibility of lawyers in juvenile courts and the protection of children's rights.

New Laws Target Youths

As of yesterday, Miami children who roam the streets late at night could end up costing their parents \$500. And last Thursday President Clinton signed legislation making it easier for retirement communities to exclude children as residents.

The law Clinton signed will help protect facilities for senior citizens from discrimination lawsuits by eliminating language in the 1988 Fair Housing Act that made it more difficult to win an exemption from a provision banning discrimination against children. Providers of senior citizen housing now can exclude children by showing that 80 percent of their units are occupied by people aged 55 and older - an easy legal standard to meet.

FEARMONGERING, ANYONE?

Hey everybody! Want to play the hottest game in Washington? It's called Fearmongering, and all you need to play is (1) a copy of "Juvenile Offenders and Victims: A National Report" from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; (2) a talent for writing sensational headlines; and (3) access to the press (you may even be a member of the press).

Here's how you play:

- (1) Leaf through OJJDP's new report, and pick out the most frightening statistic you can find. Do not read any caveats or further explanations regarding the statistic you have chosen.
- (2) Write a real eye-catching headline with a story about the statistic.
- (3) Distribute your article widely.

The purpose of this game is to make the American juvenile into the new national enemy, and encourage long-term, punitive sanctions against juveniles, without any thought to the cost, financially or morally, of such actions.

The Washington Post provides an excellent example of how to play Fearmongering. On September 8, 1995, on the front page, the Washington Post ran an article with the following headline, "Arrests Soar for Violent Crime by Juveniles". The article began with the sentence, "Juveniles have become the driving force behind the nation's alarming increases in violent crime with juvenile arrests for murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault growing sharply over the last decade as handguns and drugs became more available, a new Justice Department study shows." The article went on to cite several OJJDP report statistics, such as juvenile arrests for major violent crimes grew from 83,400 in 1983 to 129,600 in 1992.

Good headline, right? Great lead-in and snappy statistic there, too. And, of course, the Washington Post is a leading national newspaper. What's important to note, though, is how the report was used in a fragmentary manner; this is a very important strategy to use in Fearmongering. For example, the lead-in which told us that juveniles have become the "driving force" in the rise in violent crime ignores the fact that the OJJDP report stated that adults were responsible for 70% of the recent increase in violent crimes. As for the recitation of the juvenile arrest rate for major violent crimes, according to the OJJDP report, arrest trends are simple to report but "notoriously difficult to interpret". For example, arrest statistics do not reflect who is actually convicted, or "cleared" by arrest, and arrest statistics do not reflect the fact that many juvenile crimes are committed in groups. Most importantly, though, is the fact that there are indications that juvenile arrest rates generally, and violent crime by juveniles has decreased since 1992.

All (dripping) sarcasm aside, the unfortunate consequence of Fearmongering is that it obscures realistic solutions to a very serious problem, crime. Fearmongering turns our attention away from the issues that cause crime; it makes us feel that there is nothing we can do, and that only politicians, police and prisons can solve our problems.

To give the Washington Post some credit, the article did discuss some of the concomitant factors of juvenile delinquency, such as poverty and increased access to guns, albeit off the front page. Howard Snyder, the report's author, stated, "Violence is tied to poverty, drug use. All those factors are at play in urban areas." Reggie B. Walton, a D.C. Superior Court judge, stated, "When you couple that [demographics] with bad parenting, bad neighborhoods and the easy accessibility of guns, all of that fuels the problems that we see coming."

Not many people have culled these statistics from the OJJDP report for headlines:

- The number of youth in poverty increased 42% from 1976 to 1992, so that in 1992, 22% of all juveniles in the U.S. lived in poverty;
- For every two youths murdered, one committed suicide;
- Over 40% of juveniles held in custody have learning problems; over 50% have suffered parental abuse.

Here are some other statistics from the OJJDP report that haven't received too much squawking. Truancy is second-highest predictive factor for future court involvement; 42% of juveniles between 15 and 17 years of age at state training schools had attended high school, compared to 65% of the general population. What makes statistics like this are particularly appalling to those people who read past the front page to the Metro section of the Washington Post. On September 18, 1995, the Post reported that the Options School, a private, nonprofit school in Washington, was forced to close its drop-out prevention program for some 100 sixth- and seventh-graders for the lack of \$188,000 from the District government. This is not a lot of money when you consider that the average cost of housing a juvenile in a secure facility for one year was \$39,139 in 1993.

Although Fearmongers would like to avoid this point, the fact is, we know that juvenile offending doesn't appear out of thin air. It isn't something in the drinking water. The problems of juveniles reflect the larger problems of society, and those problems cannot simply be locked away.

Report: Many Youths in Court Without Lawyers

A new American Bar Association study concludes too many youths in trouble are left without lawyers as juvenile courts are doling out tougher punishments, reports Associated Press.

"Somehow this society thinks that if a kid commits a crime, what you do is take him away from his family, away from his school and his community, lock him up for one, two, or three years, and he's going to come back and be a model citizen."

—Juan Sanchez

The report, titled "A Call for Justice," says juvenile court defendants in some parts of the country regularly appear with no lawyer at their side, or with an overworked lawyer whose caseload makes effective help impossible. In some states, the report says, racial and ethnic minorities are likely to be dealt with more harshly than whites.

The report, two years in the making, was funded under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of

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El Editor, Lubbock, TX, January 11, 1996



Un Rayito De Luz

by Sofia Martinez

Los pecados tienen su raíz en lo más profundo del ser humano; porque eres mucho más bueno o mucho más malo en tu interior que en tu exterior. (Mat. 5).

Los pecados no son la consecuencia de unos actos tuyos, ni la pena que sientes, ni la humillación, ni la vergüenza, ni la angustia; son producto de una situación de ceguera, de sordera, de mudez, de parálisis psicológica; son frenos que detienen tu alma que busca a Dios, te ocultan la actuación de Dios en la naturaleza y en la historia, estorban tu desarrollo y tu realización como persona y como cristiano; te esclavizan hasta facilitarte el mal y hasta incapacitarte para que no hagas nada bueno. (Rom. 1,28-32), te insensibilizan a grado que, estando tú espiritualmente enfermo, te il-

usona estar sano; por un trágico círculo vicioso pecas más y menos te das cuenta de lo que es pecar; así como el enfermo mientras más grave está menos se da cuenta de que está agonizando.

El pecado-acción crea en ti un pecado que humanamente no se puede explicar; sólo puedes aclararlo mirándote a tí mismo como creado y echo a imagen de Dios, como destinado a Dios, como insatisfecho sin Dios. Si no existiera el pecado, (como algunos pretenden), no tendría sentido ni tendría caso que Cristo hubiera venido. El aceptó ser en todo igual a nosotros menos en el pecado (Heb. 4, 15); Cristo, siendo Luz y Vida, vino a destruir al pecado que es tiniebla y muerte (Juan 1); destruye al pecado salvando al pecador perdido (Lc 15-22).

El pecado es perdición, alejamiento, enfermedad, secuestro, muerte. La Biblia presenta al pecado como una rebelión hecha a Dios, deformación de Su imagen, infidelidad, ultraje; en cuanto al ser humano, como fracaso, frustración, imposibilidad para hacer el bien y facilidad para hacer el mal, deshumanización, estancamiento en la historia individual y comunitaria.

Mucho Fruto

POR PASTOR FRANK GARCIA

no debemos confundir el fruto con las obras. porque no son lo mismo. El fruto es una cosa, y las obras es otra cosa. porque mientras que en las obras puede haber confusión, no así en el fruto.

Porque el fruto es el resultado de una vida, mientras que las obras, son el resultado de un hecho. La diferencia entre las obras y el fruto, es que; las obras se hacen, mientras que el fruto se da. Nadie tiene que hacer una manzana y ponerla al manzano, porque el manzano la da. Por lo que se cree, que hay más verdad en los frutos que en las obras. Porque una gente mala, puede hacer una obra buena. Pero no así en el fruto. Cristo lo explicó de esta manera: "No puede el buen árbol llevar mal fruto, y ni el árbol maldado llevar frutos buenos." Mat. 7:18.

Todos los frutos buenos se le atribuyen al Espíritu Santo de Dios. Y en la Escritura se conocen por "Frutos del Espíritu Santo." y los encontramos en Gál. 5:22-25 He aquí algunos de ellos: Caridad, gozo, tolerancia benignidad, bondad, fe. Mansedumbre templanza. Si vivimos en el Espíritu, andemos también en el Espíritu." Cristo dijo en Juan 15:8 "En esto es glorificado mi Padre, en que llevéis mucho fruto." mucho buenos frutos se necesitaban dosmil años pasados, y mucho fruto se necesita hoy. Cristo dijo que en esto era glorificado el Padre. En nuestros días, el Padre es glorificado en los cantos, en las predicaciones, en los testimonios y en las oraciones. Pero también es necesario que sea glorificado en los frutos. Cristo dijo que él era la vid verdadera y su Padre el labrador, y que todo aquél que lleva buen fruto; Dios le limpiará para que lleve más fruto. Así que esto está casi bien claro; que si no llevamos más fruto, es porque no hemos sido más limpios; CUIDADO!

¿Qué se parece a un catarro, suena como un catarro, y se siente como un catarro, pero no lo es?



El asma. Pero la diferencia es que el asma puede ser mucho más serio. Así es que si su niño tiene una tos que no se va, si respira con dificultad, o tiene un ronquido o silbido, especialmente después de andar corriendo o mientras duerme, no lo trate de curar usted solo. Visite a su médico o clínica.

Respire sin dificultad. Pregúntele a su médico si es asma.

National Asthma Education and Prevention Program National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; National Institutes of Health; Public Health Service; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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It's Always Better To Be Sure. A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL ON FAMILY HEALTH AND THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

De la Pagina 2

tiempo tratando de encontrar nuestro camino de regreso, viviendo una clase extraña de contradicción. Somos lo suficientemente valerosos como para enfrentarnos a la vida; pero tenemos miedo de lo que podría llegar a ser. Combatimos por nuestra libertad; no obstante, estamos atrapados por nuestros prejuicios. Tenemos muchas ganas de crecer y ser sabios; pero parecemos estar consumidos por el deseo de volver a capturar nuestra inocencia.

Enviamos a soldados escasamente pasados de la niñez a mantener al mundo en paz; les damos armas de fuego para que se sientan seguros. Decimos que los niños y la familia son nuestras prioridades, excepto cuando interfieran con lo más importante.

El Papa Juan Pablo II ha pedido que 1996 sea el año del niño. El habla de encontrar nuestro camino de regreso a través de las vidas de los que están más próximos a la creación, de valorar a los niños como nuestros mapas de carreteras. Y aún cuando él no los mencionó por sus nombres, estoy seguro de que lo que él tuvo en mente fueron aquellos momentos ordinarios que todos nosotros hemos tenido, con Rubén, Pancho y el flaco Daniel del extremo de la calle.



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Editor Publisher

Bidal Aguero

From Page 4

was directed by Luis Llosa.

Estefan's Crescent Moon Records released the latter soundtrack and a follow-up to the Grammy-winning "Master Sessions: Volume One" by septuagenarian Israel "Cachao" Lopez. Two younger Latinos, record producer Jellybean Benitez and filmmaker Robert Rodriguez, also established their own record companies.

ART AND LITERATURE: While the Expresiones Chicanas exhibition made it to Spain in February, various shows with Latin American and U.S. Latino artists continued to tour this country. Carmen Lomas Garza became the first Mexican American to exhibit at the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.

Spanish-language literature continued to captivate U.S. readers, with several Iberian publishing houses establishing links with counterparts here.

FILM: Parallel to the success of U.S. Latino filmmakers Gregory Nava ("My Family") and Robert Rodriguez ("Desperado"), two Mexican directors left their mark in Hollywood. Alfonso Arau had a hit with his "A Walk in the Clouds," although the release of the film had to be delayed for several reasons, including a lawsuit brought on by his ex-wife and partner, Laura Esquivel.

Alfonso Cuarón had critical -- but not box office -- success with his "A Little Princess,"

and is parlaying that to a promising Hollywood career. One of Puerto Rico's most gifted filmmakers, Jacob Morales, toured the international festival circuit with his "Linda Sara," which broke box office records in the Commonwealth.

John Leguizamo's performance as a drag queen named Chi Chi Rodriguez in the film "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar," angered the real Chi Chi Rodriguez. The golfer sued and eventually settled for an undisclosed amount.

ALSO OUTSTANDING: Anthony Quinn's continuous lust for life led to divorce but also a return to the stage and screen... Antonio Banderas became Hollywood's favorite Latino Lover, with back-to-back screen appearances, much still-to-come work, and a well-publicized romance with actress Melanie Griffith... Jimmy Smits saved ABC's "NYPD Blue" and capped 1995 with a 1996 Golden Globe nomination... Gloria Estefan went back to Cuba to perform for refugees at Guantanamo Bay and released a new album in Spanish... Rubén Blades went back to Panama, handed over the reins to his political party, and began working on an album and, possibly, a film... Onward to '96.

(Antonio Mejias-Rentas is managing editor of the entertainment section for Los Angeles' Spanish-language daily La Opinión and columnist for the national Hispanic Link Weekly Report. Copyright 1996. Hispanic Link News Service. Distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate)

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